

SWAFFHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER,
1942

Medical Officer of Health: C.S. Hall Smith, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S.,
E.R.C.P..

Sanitary Inspector : R.F. Hudson, A.R. San.I..

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report
for the year ended 31st December, 1942.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area.....	7592 acres
Resident Population mid 1942.....	2936
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942)....	872
Rateable Value.....	£10,699
Product of Penny Rate.....	£42

Swaffham is a Market Town, the centre of a large Agricultural district, upon which industry it chiefly relies. The only other industries of any note carried on in the area are a canning factory and maltings.

Transport facilities are supplied by the L. & N.E. Railway Company and the Eastern Counties Omnibus Company.

The Town is supplied with gas, water and electricity by statutory companies.

The Council own a Cemetery and Recreation Ground.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births Legitimate	51	28	23	Birth Rate per 1000
Illegitimate	3	1	2	Population....18.4
Stillbirths.....	1	1	-	18.5 per 1000 total births
Deaths.....	45	19	26	15.3 per 1000 population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis

Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total births.
0	-

No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes

1

18.5

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:-

All infants per 1000 live births.....	37.0
Legitimate infants per 1000 Legitimate live births.....	39.2
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	7
Measles (all ages).....	0
Whooping Cough (all ages).....	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Staff.

The Medical Officer of Health is part time, the Sanitary Inspector also carries out the duties of Highway and Buildings Surveyor and is a full-time officer of the Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Council do not possess an ambulance. Facilities for conveying patients to and from hospital etc., are supplied by the Ambulance belonging to St. John Ambulance Brigade. This ambulance is stationed in the Town, and is very efficiently run. The Ambulances belonging to the Civil Defence also are used for Military cases.

Nursing in the Home.

People requiring home nursing can call upon the services of the District Nurse (Queen Victoria's Nursing Association) provided they pay a small premium. The nurse also does health visiting amongst the mothers and children under 5 years.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

There is an Infant Welfare Clinic - held once a month, run under the auspices of the Norfolk County Council. Mothers needing advice are asked to attend.

Hospital

The Victoria Jubilee Cottage Hospital meets, to a certain extent the needs of the town, other cases can be sent by arrangement of the medical practitioners to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital and the West Norfolk & King's Lynn Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.

Water is supplied to the Town by the Swaffham Waterworks Co Ltd., of Lynn Street, Swaffham. The supply is plentiful and pure, but is one of the hardest in the country. Most of the Built-up part of the district has a piped supply. The limits of supply is within radius of one thousand and five hundred yards from the centre of the Market Cross. A chlorination plant has been installed at the works.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A combined system of sewerage exists in the Council's area, There have been no stoppages during the year and no trouble apart from the usual blowing of manholes etc., during heavy storms.

The Sewage Disposal works are situated on the Watton Road about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town. The system of disposal has continued to function without trouble during the year and there has been no complaints.

Closet Accommodation.

Approximately half of the town's closet accommodation is on the conservancy system and half on the water carriage system. Pails, vaults and cesspools are emptied by direct labour - one horse & cart and two men being employed on this work.

The number of closets converted to the water carriage system during the year was two.

The approx: numbers of each type of closet now in use are:-

Pail Closets.....	365.
Vault Closets.....	31.
Water Closets.....	502.

Public Cleansing.

Practically the whole of the town is served by moveable sanitary dust-bins. There are now only ten open ashpits in the town. The collection is made by one horse and cart and two men. The number of dust-bins to be emptied is approximately 860. Waste Paper and other salvage is collected and kept separate from the household refuse, bags for the purpose being suspended from the back of the cart.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

	Inspections	Informal Notices	Remarks.
Drainage	8	6	Work done.
Factories Workshops and Bakehouses	7	2	Work done.
Water Supplies	7	3	2 samples taken from wells. Work outstanding in 1 case.
Verminous Premises	4	2	Work done. 2 houses fumigated
Cowsheds and Dairies etc.,	21	7	Work done
Infectious diseases.	43		Report to M.O.H. and Houses fumigated.
Nuisances including defective pails and dust bins	14	14	Complied with.
Slaughter houses Butcher's shops	185	2	Work done.
Inns, Public Houses etc.,	3	-	-
New W.C's baths sinks etc.,	6	1	2 new W.C's in place of pails. 3 new scullery sinks.
Housing	37	12	Work done.

HOUSING.

During the year part of a house was adapted and converted into a self contained flat, making an additional dwelling, and a large farm house was converted into three good cottages for agricultural workers. The latter were provided with bathrooms and running hot water.

Owing to pressure of other work arising out of the war only 37 inspections were made. These were chiefly the outcome of complaints from tenants; 12 informal notices were served and the work was done in each case.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The whole of the registered premises have been visited during the year, and instructions have been given to limewhite when necessary.

There is one producer retailer of Accredited Milk and one retail bottling establishment of Accredited Milk at present licensed, the requisite number of samples have been taken for the Tuberculin and Methylene Blue Tests.

Meat and Other Foods.

Shops and Slaughter houses have been regularly visited and found to be clean and tidy. The quality of meat has been good.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

Approximate number killed	Cattle 579	Calves 66	Sheep and Lambs 2340	Pigs 240
Approximate number inspected	579	66	2000	240
All diseases except Tuberculosis:				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	8	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	89	-	17	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	15.4	-	1.25	0.8
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcasses condemned	6	-	-	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	81	-	-	20
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	15.0	-	-	9.6
<u>Weight of meat and offal condemned</u>				
	Cattle. lbs.	Sheep. lbs.	Pigs. lbs.	
Carcasses of parts of carcasses	4538	487	289	
Offal.....	7244	140	298	

PREVALENCE OF, and CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases during the year 1942.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	28	No Record	Nil
Whooping cough	11		
Diphtheria	2		
Erysipelas	2		
Measles	4		
Pneumonia	1		
Puerperal Pyrexia	2		

Cases notified under age groups

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 over
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	2	-	9	10	3	2			
Whooping Cough				4		6	1					
Diphtheria	1				1						1	1
Erysipelas												
Measles			1			2			1			
Pneumonia										1		
Puerperal Pyrexia									2			

Tuberculosis

New cases and mortality during 1942

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever								
Whooping cough								
0-4								
5-14				1				
15-24				2				
25-34								
35-44								
45-54								
55-64	2							
65 and upwards								
Totals	2			3				
Scarlet Fever								
Whooping Cough								
Diphtheria	1							
Erysipelas								
Measles								
Pneumonia								
Puerperal Pyrexia								

Age Period

0-4
5-14
15-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
65 and upwards

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year the response to this service was not so good as was hoped for. Sessions were held at the schools in the Town and in this way 34.1% of children of school age were immunised.

18.1% of children under 5 were immunised.

SCABIES.

This condition was very rarely encountered before the war. But after the arrival of evacuees and troops in the Town a moderate increase was noticed.

Practitioners were asked to keep a strict watch for it. Children and clothing were removed when necessary for disinfection under the Norfolk County Council Scheme.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No increase of Tuberculosis was apparent.

VENEREAL DISEASES

No increase. No facilities for treating V.D. in the Town.

GENERAL REMARKS.

In spite of war conditions, the general health of the population was good. Many evacuees left, those remaining being chiefly unaccompanied children.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) C.S. Hall Smith.

Medical Officer of Health.